

GREATER NASHUA CONTINUUM OF CARE

Meeting Minutes

Nashua City Hall, Room 208

March 1, 2006

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1. Call to Order: 8:00 a.m. Chair Lori Cardin.
2. All present introduced themselves and visitors were welcomed.
3. Minutes of February 1, 2006: (handout) L. Jeynes noted a correction to the minutes. L. Nault motioned the amended minutes be accepted, L. Christie seconded and the motion carried.
4. Report of Executive Committee:
Letterhead: L. Cardin described the new letterhead discussed at the committee meeting. It was agreed to use this letterhead for GNCOC business.
Vote on "What Constitutes an Agency": It was voted by this committee not to change the rules but to keep the definition of an agency to be any with a 501 (c) (3) status and each allowed one vote.
HMIS: L. Cardin asked if anyone who had received an invoice for their share of the HMIS fee, please send a copy to her. L. Christie mentioned that the cost information was attached to the back of their application. D. Lozeau said there seems to be some inconsistency in who received billing. This will be discussed further at the Executive Committee.
5. Ending Homelessness Committee Update: B. Mack reported that this committee met on February 1st. They are working on a draft letter to the various entities thanking them for their participation as well as reaching out to new members. They had discussion about legislative issue dealing with Landlord security deposits. There is still a need for more help on the Wrap-around Services Strategy committee. Research on the statistics for the area showed that in 2004 there were 1089 Notices to Evict compared with 1114 in 2005. They will meet again after this meeting in Room 208 of the City Hall.
6. GAPS Committee Report: J. Russell handed out a copy of the homeless census chart. (This will be posted on the website.) The statewide count was done on January 25th and shows a slight increase over last year's figures. K. Nijhuis added a reminder that the HUD definition of "chronic homeless" can only be applied to individuals, not families.
7. SuperNOFA Preparation Committee: There was no report at this time.
8. Continua Reports: T. Epaphras reported that the MCOC met on February 22nd at the HUD office in Manchester. Their focus was on their 18-month strategic plan. They are still working on their Ending Homelessness Plan. L. Cardin said they had taken several community leaders on a tour of their agencies. There were no reports on BOSCOG and ICH at this time.
9. Division of Public Health & Community Services: Members of the Division of Public Health including Paul Etkind, Chris Lister, Donna Juskiewicz, Bob Mack and Mike Tremblay gave a special presentation on "All Hazards Plan and Special Populations". P.

Etkind spoke about bio-terrorism stating that the structure that is in place for a normal day will also work the same in a crisis epidemic. The one gap may be in how to identify and deal with the “special population”. This is where they need input from the GNCOC. C. Lister and M. Tremblay gave everyone copies of emergency planning materials which included instructions and phone numbers for various types of emergencies. Lister stated that the Katrina disaster was the third most devastating event in history and that children separated from their parents was a big part of the problem that needs attention. Tremblay recalled some of the local Nashua disasters such as the Crown Hill fire, the flooding of the Merrimack River and several power outages and feels we have become as prepared as possible. W. Furnari asked about the Asian flu. Etkind replied that the virus is not easily transmitted from person to person, but it is spreading in other parts of the world. B. Mack said that the Katrina victims in Nashua brought to light the continuing need to be prepared for such emergencies and he felt it was important to get the GNCOC involved. J. Kelley asked if anyone had any contact with other places in the country that have dealt with the Katrina problem. Etkind replied that there is national information being reported in various ways, which has been in existence for several years. The Red Cross is looking into sheltering with schools and churches. Mack had reports from people who had gone down there and reported back. S. Mead said that local preparedness is coming along well. We need to get the word out from the GNCOC that this is a quick way to reach many people. There are over 500 people trained in NH for disaster events.

10. Health Care Opportunity: P. Kelleher said there has been a need for healthcare for the homeless in Nashua for over 10 years. Dr. E. Scully from the Nashua Area Health Center is putting together a proposal for funding for this purpose. Dr. Scully said the proposal is for \$200,000 to set up a program. He will need a letter from the GNCOC. L. Christie motioned to approve this letter be sent, R. Morrissette seconded and the motion carried.

11. Upcoming Meetings:

- a. Executive Committee Meeting – March 15, 2006, 8:00 am – HHI, 45 High Street.
- b. Ending Homelessness Committee – March 1st, 9:00 am Room 208, City Hall.
- c. GAPS Committee Meeting – TBA
- d. General Meeting GNCOC – April 5th, 8:00 am, City Hall Auditorium.
- e. Debriefing on the SuperNOFA will be at 3:30 on March 8, 2006.

12. Announcements: M. Brown announced that Milford has passed a warrant article providing \$30,000 to 14 agencies, many of which are members of the GNCOC. L. Christie called for a round of applause to thank M. Brown getting involved. She said we would like to get other towns so involved.

P. Kelleher reported that construction of the Spring Street Veteran’s project is moving forward, funding is coming in and they expect to have the ground breaking in April.

13. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:57 am.

Minutes prepared by Linda Jeynes/Urban Programs